

DON'T GAMBLE AWAY YOUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE



You're betting against the future of your community and the happiness of your family every time you spend your money out of town.

When we buy from those who buy from us....either our labor or our products, we're getting full value for the money we have worked so hard to earn.

The stakes are high when you gamble with your community's business district. Your best bet is shopping in your hometown stores.

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Election '88

WINNERS: Above, Jerry Costello speaks to a gathering of Democrats at the V.F.W. Hall in Granite City Tuesday night. With him are his son, Jerry Jr.; daughter, Gina; his wife, Georgia; and son, John. About 65 were present for Costello's early election night visit to Granite City. He later visited a gathering in Madison. At left, two Democratic winners congratulate each other at the Wood River Moose Lodge hall Tuesday night. At left is Dan Donohoo, elected Madison County recorder of deeds, shaking hands with Circuit Judge Charles Chapman, who was successful in his bid for appellate judge in the 5th Judicial District. Alton area Democrats gathered at the hall for election results.

(Staff photos by Patrick Foley)

PACs heavily backed successful efforts of re-election bids

By Edward T. Hearn
P-R/J Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Backing the lawmakers they have come to know, political action committees (PACs) gave incumbent congressmen more than \$100 million but gave their challengers just \$13.2 million, according to a new study by Common Cause.

PACs also gave open-seat candidates \$12 million, putting their total spending for the 1987-88 election cycle at \$125.2 million, said Common Cause, a Washington public interest lobby.

The House leader in PAC receipts was Rep. Robert H. Michel, the Peoria Republican and House minority leader who won 55 percent of the vote in the 10th Illinois District on Nov. 8.

The Senate's top PAC recipient was Democratic vice presidential nominee Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, Texas, who raised \$2.4 million. Under Texas law, Bentsen was allowed to run for Senate re-election while seeking the second highest office in the land. Bentsen won a fourth Senate term while his party's national ticket was losing 40 of the 50 states.

The PACs' lopsided support for sitting members of Congress paid off, as only six House and four Senate incumbents went down to defeat on Election Day. Just 27 House and six Senate seats were open this year.

A hefty 98 percent of House incumbents were re-elected, 88 percent of them receiving more than 60 percent of the vote.

"The PAC-rigged system for financing congressional elections is creating a challenger-proof House of Representatives," Common Cause President Fred Wertheimer said in a prepared statement.

"When House incumbents can't lose, regardless of performance, and House challengers can't win, regardless of talent, then we don't have real elections and we don't have representative government," he said.

Common Cause supports limits on PAC funding and campaign spending, and would like there to be publicly-financed House and Senate races.

"The 'people's body' established by our Founding Fathers is starting to look like England's life-tenured House of Lords," Wertheimer said. "We must

restore competition and accountability to our political system by fundamentally reforming the way our congressional campaigns are financed."

Although a few House races and the Florida Senate contest were not yet officially decided, the Democrats were likely to control the House by 262 seats to 173 and the Senate by 55 seats to 45, giving the Democrats their 35th consecutive year in control of the House. Democrats regained control of the Senate in 1987.

Other campaign spending trends show that PACs, which are limited to giving a candidate no more than \$5,000 in each primary election and general election, gave more to Democratic candidates for the House and Senate than to Republican candidates by a wide margin.

According to Common Cause figures taken from Federal Election Commission filings by the candidates, PACs gave Democrats \$77.8 million and Republicans \$47.5 million.

The House had 328 incumbent-challenger races, and in 323 of them the incumbents raised more money overall; in 313 the incumbents raised more from PACs; in 319 the incumbents outspent their challengers; and in 318 the incumbents had more cash-on-hand as of Oct. 19, the filing deadline the study said.

In 27 contested Senate races, 26 incumbents out-raised their challengers, 26 raised more from PACs than their challengers did, 26 outspent their challengers, and 24 had more cash-on-hand.

History symposium set at Springfield

The Illinois Statehouse will be the scene of wide-ranging historical discussion Dec. 2-3 as the ninth annual Illinois History Symposium convenes. Sponsored by the Illinois State Historical Society, a department of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the symposium draws hundreds of scholars and history buffs to Springfield.

Thirty-five papers will be delivered, covering such topics as coal miners, canals, Abraham Lincoln, frontier women doctors, Chicago architecture, Polish and Italian immigrants, and culture. Dinner reservations and additional symposium information are available from the Illinois State Historical Society, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Ill. 62701, (217) 785-7552.

Retired federal workers briefed about benefits, taxes, insurance

Chapter 1067 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees met Oct. 10 at Charlie's Restaurant, Granite City. Fifty-five attended, including new member Evelyn McColegan.

President Gene Ross called the meeting to order, and second Vice President Thara Erney gave the invocation. Helen Martin gave the treasurer's report, and Ruth Stoyanoff read the minutes of the last meeting.

First Vice President Alex Duccini's legislative report covered three issues.

He told retirees that apparently the next federal retiree cost-of-living allowance scheduled to go into effect — close to 4 percent — will be Dec. 1, and it will be reflected in January annuity checks.

Duccini said contributions by NARFE members make its political action committee the largest among those representing federal retirees or active employees and the fourth largest nationally

in the category of trade/membership PACs.

Ross said that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources has set up a hot line to be used for those having questions about Medicare catastrophic health insurance. It is 1-800-889-1998.

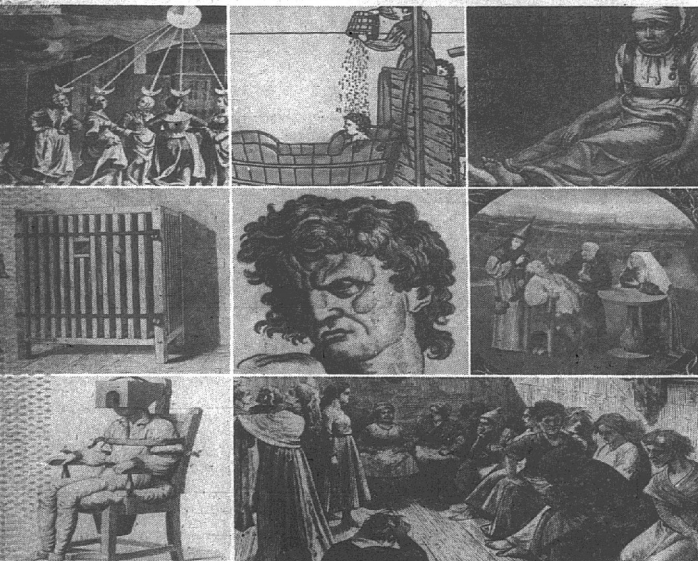
Members asked several questions about coverage for those who are not eligible upon reaching age 65. Art Meyer, an accountant and tax-expert, responded by pointing that if one's spouse is eligible for Medicare, the mate-can "piggy-back" for coverage. Meyer stressed that the cost of the new insurance will be computed on one's 1989 tax return. He also urged members to study a story on Page 11 of the September issue of *Reverent Life* magazine concerning "Questions and Answers on Catastrophic Health Care."

Ross said premiums of some health benefit plans for federal employees and retirees will

increase tremendously next year. Among the increases cited by Ross was the premium for Blue Cross/Blue Shield's high-option family plan. Currently, the bi-weekly total premium is \$183.83; in 1989, he said it will increase to \$274.25, with the government paying \$99.48 and the employee/retiree paying \$174.77 (64 percent).

The guest speaker was Lorraine P. Wehling, Cottage Hills, a member of Alton Chapter 575 and vice president of NARFE's Illinois District 1. Wehling served as NARFE's proxy in votes cast at the 20th national convention held in Little Rock, Ark., in September. Wehling reviewed the business transacted and programs offered at the gathering.

It was announced that the next NARFE meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 14 at Charlie's Restaurant, Granite City. Federal retirees who would like to join NARFE are urged to call Darryl B. Few at 787-0527.



Are your attitudes about mental illness still in the dark ages?

Our notions about mental illness have a long, dark history. Age-old fears, resentments and scorn still poison our perceptions. Sadly, these misunderstandings keep us from seeing mental illness for what it really is: a distressing medical disease. A disease that afflicts over 35 million Americans.

But the stigma of mental illness keeps most of those afflicted from seeking help. Which is tragic. Because today there's more hope than ever before. In recent years, medical science has begun to unlock many of the mysteries of mental illness and discovered new drugs and better therapies to treat it.

Learn to see the sickness.

American Mental Health Fund
P.O. Box 17100, Washington, DC 20041. Or call, toll-free:
1-800-433-5959

Ad Council A Public Service Message



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